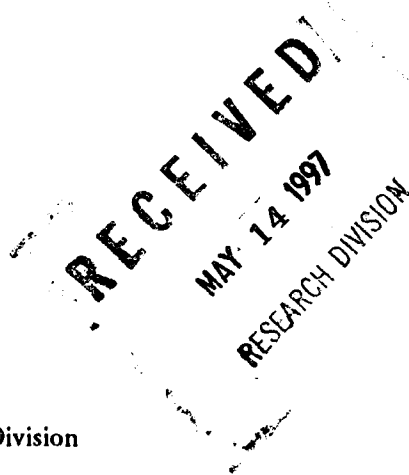




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May 9, 1997

Linwood Jones, Attorney Research Division
North Carolina General Assembly
545 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

**RE: Response to Memo of 5/6/97 - The Committee on New Licensing Boards
Questions and Review of H.B.1040 Presented By Rep. Steve Wood**

Dear Mr. Jones:

We are responding to your questions in the memo you faxed on May 6, 1997. The responses will be supported by collected documentation which will be sent to you. The questions submitted are very similar to those asked of the Committee on New Licensing Boards during the May 25, 1995 review of House Bill 880. I have also enclosed the response to that questionnaire. The Alliance of North Carolina Environmental Professionals have met during this past year and developed House Bill 1040 - Environmental Management Professionals based on comments and recommendations of other professional boards, state and federal regulatory changes and suggestions from the general public.

Please note we are now requesting the establishment of a professional licensing board to register qualified individuals and oversee the practice of environmental management within the state. The lack of a state licensing board was a major concern with and fostered opposition to HB 880 - Qualified Environmental Professionals in 1995.

Question 1 - In what ways has the marketplace failed to regulate adequately the profession or occupation?

The marketplace has failed to regulate the profession of Environmental Professional by the market having to operate under the presence of a general statute (ie. 89C) which benefits a small segment of the profession (ie. Professional Engineers) to the exclusion of others in the profession. Those qualified environmental professionals who do not hold a professional engineer's certification are penalized with a loss of economic opportunity to practice their profession. It is highly unlikely that there are sufficient numbers of certified engineers in the marketplace to adequately service the needs for nondesign related environmental management activities. As a result environmental compliance costs are artificially high for those industries and individuals seeking environmentally related permit management services. This is of particular concern to the Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department, as well as, other state and local regulatory agencies. The Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department continually and conscientiously seeks ways with which to lower the environmental compliance costs of its regulated community.